

The Gateway Chronicle

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area
New Jersey/New York



Your Gateway to Volunteers-In-Parks News Spring 2015

Gateway National Recreation Area Celebrates LGBTQ Pride

Last year, Secretary Jewell announced a new theme study aimed to increase engagement and involvement between the National Park Service and the people of the LGBTQ communities. On Sunday, June 28, 2015, Gateway National Recreation Area participated in their first NYC Pride event, Pridefest. Youth coordinator Larry Calhoun, of the National Parks of New York Harbor, joined Gateway in welcoming the public to learn more about the National Park Service, what it offers, its upcoming centennial, and how to get involved. Pridefest helped Gateway gain exposure, reach a broad and diverse audience, and encourage more people to come out and play, learn, serve, and work at the various sites spanning across three New York City boroughs and Sandy Hook, New Jersey. With the National Park Service's Centennial quickly approaching in 2016, Gateway National Recreation Area's Volunteers-In-Parks Program has devoted itself to the mission of engaging the next generation of



Gateway Volunteer Coordinator and Statue of Liberty NM Ranger meet at PrideFest

stewards to protect and preserve public lands for the next 100 years and beyond. Attending Pridefest was an exciting opportunity for Gateway, and we are proud to have taken part in NYC Pride. We look forward to collaborating more with NYC Pride in the future!



SCA Interns and Bike Ambassador Trish about to set out on their bike ride

New Volunteer Bike Ambassador

Jamaica Bay Unit starts their VIP Bike Ambassador Program! Bike Ambassador responsibilities include riding out to a different part of Gateway every week, answering general questions, advising the public on upcoming events/activities, and providing basic assistance on the bike path. If you are interested in volunteering as a bike ambassador, email keith_white@nps.gov for more information.

NOTICE: All HARP programs going on at Hangar B are cancelled until further notice, as the roof of Hangar B is being fixed.

Join the Conversation



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nps.gov/gate



Learn about Volunteering

Scan the QR code





Edward and Lea restocking at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Spreading the Word

Meet Edward and Lea, who are high school students at P.233Q in Queens. They have been volunteering here at Gateway for the last year (Edward, 2 years), helping out with bird feeding, invasive plant removal, and inventory stocking at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. All that they have accomplished there contributes to their vocational skills, all the while teaching them how to be independent. These objectives are highlighted in P.233Q's mission statement, and we are proud to help them achieve their goals and to call them our volunteers.

In addition, their supervisor Janice, who is a paraprofessional at P.233Q, discovered that she enjoys volunteering at Gateway after accompanying Edward and Lea to the refuge this year. In fact, she was so inspired to volunteer on her own time that she now comes in on the weekends with her son! Had it not been for Edward and Lea's opportunity to volunteer at Gateway, she would have never known about it! So thank you to Edward, Lea, and Janice for taking the opportunity to help their local national park and helping us advocate stewardship and volunteerism.

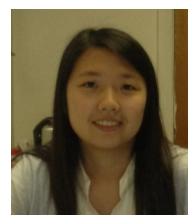


Play by the Bay on June 14th, 2015

Meet Our Interns



Hello, I am Kahmia, and currently serving as the Centennial Volunteer Ambassador for Gateway National Recreation Area. I recently graduated from Lafayette College. I was born and raised in Jamaica Queens, NY. I am a member of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and last year I participated in the National Parks of New York Harbor's inaugural NPS Academy, sponsored by SCA. I was assigned a six-month internship in Washington, D.C. During my time in Washington, I worked out of the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House, National Historic Site in the education and interpretation program. My experience in Washington was so rewarding I decided to return and participate in the 2015 New York Harbor NPS Academy as a peer mentor, which led me to my current position as Centennial Volunteer Ambassador for the National Park Service. As the Centennial Volunteer Ambassador for Gateway, I hope to reach and engage with those in the local communities; inspire them to discover, serve, and protect the parks; and promote volunteerism and sustaining the National Park Service for another 100 years for the education, engagement, and enjoyment of everyone. I will be working closely with Keith White and my fellow intern, Alicia on volunteer projects and preparation for the centennial. I am excited and appreciative for this opportunity and look forward to meeting you all in the near future.



Hi, my name is Alicia and I am an undergraduate at Carnegie Mellon University studying chemical engineering. Back in high school, I used to volunteer at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge helping Keith White Gateway National Recreation Area Volunteer Coordinator with social media and Gateway's website. This summer, I will be working as a local intern for the National Park Service in partnership with the Student Conservation Association (SCA). Additionally, I will serve as a SCA Americorps member for a minimum of 450 hours. My responsibilities will consist of managing volunteer events and promoting stewardship within Gateway. I believe this experience will help develop my skills in communication, administration, and management as I work with a diverse population of volunteers.